Add on Shaw Civil Suit-Confidential; International Trade Mart; Warren deBrueys Js, HR only

I should have included in last night's memo what I did with this new information on rental of space in the new ITM Building and a few other things about the old and the new.

My source on most that does not come from documents and interviews with other was Jesse Core, who became a friend. The Monday before Thanksgiving last year, 1971, he took me to a great lunch at the Commander's Palace in the Garden Section. I rarely get drunk any more, never when working, but I can keep drinking. I am not boasting when I say I stayed with him, round for round. I think Jesse wanted to relax or may have had a head start. We were both glad to see each other, both getting to the restaurant early, although he was in the middle of a campaign and had several clients. He had been advertising and p.r. manager for Garrison's first campaign. There was a pleasant intrusion that ended confidential conversation. A friend of Jesse's, a real movie character Charlie Gresham, came in with a woman who was alumnae chairman for the coming bowl game. Charlie was a friend of Meyer Lansky's, although from a fine family, the apparent source of his apparent wealth. Charlies lubricated to the point where he'd talk only personal things about Lansky. They had a business relationship.

This color stuff is not so much for use in AO as for reminding me of mood.

Aside: besides this from-the-top invite to the bowl game New Years Day I had another, from Guy Johnson. Bud had asked me to try to arrange certain things with Guy. It was not wasy because he a) is an alcoholic and b) was separated from his wife, who would not say so and thus ran my— off needlessly- I kept calling all weekend and didn t latch onto him until the last minute, just as I was leaving town for Dallas. Guy would set up a meeting between himself, Bud and me and Raoul Esquevil. Bd chilled immediately, I think from fear, and we never went back, although what he wanted was arranged.

Background: I had met Sal Panzeca in earlier years. Moo introduced us. He then expresse an inte est in talking to me. The Friday before this, or the Friday before Thanksgiving 1971, I was in the DA's office for some purpose when Sal came in. We spoke briefly. I asked if he still wanted to talk to me and he said he did. I said fine because there was something about which I wanted to talk to him. He said he had just come back from abroad (he later told me he prefers these many overseas chores for his firm and seeks them out), so would I keep after him at home. He'd break away the first minute he had free. We had a tentative arrangement for Sunday I had to break when Moo told me belatedly his wife expecte me for Sunday dinner and had arranged a big one, in the Italian way. Having done all the things planned except seeing Jesse (there are always things that can be improvised there) the last time I spoke to Sal over the weekend we set a meeting for late afternoon Monday. had a rental car, so the driving around was no problem. It was close to 5 by the time I left Jesse and Co. and got to Sal's office. He had an unexpected client, would I come back in a half-hour or so? I walked over to Dean Andrews' office, and it isn't possibl to leave hinin a half hour. I got back to Sal's when the building was closed and securityor However, I found an elevator operator who remembered taking a client up after closing and not bringing him down, so Sal still had to be there. I went up, getting there as he and the client were leaving. We spoke for about an hour. About many things. Like all he had on Russ he felt he didn t have to use, how he got into the case, and the seriousness of their civil suit. I told him I hoped they'd drop it because Shaw had committed perjury with which he had not been charged, that my interest was not Garrison, from whom we both knew there was no chance of collecting, and he should bear in mind that in a civil suit, for damages, muc was relevant that is not in a criminal proceeding, and his client might come out hurt much worse than he could be said to have been by the criminal case. Sal insisted he was serious and I had and have no trouble believing it. He tried to pump me for what I knew. I told hi I had not told Garrison and would not tell him. Finally, without telling him any details, I did tell him that saying Cobb was so sorry that Shaw insisted on quitting was false, that Cobb, pe sonally, fired Shaw, that there were other than the existeing personal reaso and that this addressed Shaw's alibi and I felt was in itself perjurious. When I would not tell him more and he was already an hour late for supper and wasn't home, we broke up when he called his wife. I know I did a memo on this, presume it had more details, although I probably did it on the plane to Dallas. Sal left no doubt that he, personally, yearns to Garrison, for personal reasons, a needless personal insult from JG to him, the reason he in the case in which he did all the real work. He didn't want to be at first.

This, by the way, is so typical of that lemming Garrison that I have no trouble in only believing it. Sal's anger, in repeating the story after so long an internal, left no doubt about his sincerity. He is a very small man. Jim's insult had to do with his size and was racist, calling him "dago" of "wop". That part I know is in the note I made, verbatim.

So, in my mind, an element of mystery remains: why does Sal and this prestigeous firm insist in going through with a suit in which they do not have real expectation of a major recovery? Sal said their expernses and costs were enormous, much more than they were repaid, and they want to recover. I don t believe this explains it. The possibility of serving another interest was and remains in my mind. Which leads to the ITM

That was on the beat of Warren C. deBrueys. He covered it as regularly as a reporter touches base with regulars on his beat. There was an additional reason. Shaw and the normal work of the ITM brought in a wide assortment of foreign dignitaries who were overloaded with enemies, like Samoza. Thus there were legitimate security concerns the FBI had. Jesse met with deBrueys on such things often, knew him personally, and regarded him as a friend. Aside: he was always baffled that deB has so little interest, took so long in coming, when he phoned to leave word that he had the leaflet Oswald was using. I do have a memo of that and a xerox of the original from Jesse. Plus other details. Further aside: Jesse was in the original WDSU footage. He reviewed it with Ed Planer as soon as Oswald was mentioned and it was still there, not an outtake. Ed Planer confirmed it by phone the day after I saw Jesse, Tuesday morning, before I met Guy.

Now I learned things about deBrueys by just working, bumping into it. For one thing, the lawyer Dell arranged to defend the spurious Bringuier suits had been a law-school classmate. So, deB was a local boy on long-time local assignment, a reasonable situation. Also, something that did not emerge in the hearings, he was fluent in Spanish. If to this and other things fo r which I do not now have time are added what is in COUP, there is an explanation of why deB , of all the agents the FBI had available, was shipped to Dallas immediately to do the correlating, which we know with certainty was really filtering. He was an ideal man to remain in N.O. for that job, and any competent agent could have done his Dallas job, if the intent was a straight job. deB had the special knowledge for filtering. I believe that had he remained in N.O., some of the really fine leads in those reports would not exist. A similar conditions does not exist in Dallas, where he did his job rather well, considering the bulk of what he handled.

Shaw gave free space in the oldITM to a CIA outfit, a Cuban one, the name of which the incompetents in Garrison's office never got in the trial record. It is in the grand-jury transcripts, taken from Josephine Hug. I think there is indefinite reference to in in her trial testimony, which I do not have in transcript. Now William George Gaudet, who immediately fingered Ruby to the N.O. FBI, ran the Latin American Reports as it could not afford to be run from a three-room suite in the ITM. Gaudet was CIA, as was his LAR. Shaw's explanation of why LHO picketed the ITM was the presence of the Cuban consulate there. There was none, so his explanation makes no sense. But good old JG let it stand, unchallenged. I believe LHO had been told where to picket. Bearing on this he had numbers not listed in his book, including relating to this. Like Vern Rotman's not at DSU and not in Rotman's name. It was not a haphazard thing. And deB covered that building. He was also yanked from N.O. I do not know the date, but right after my grand jury appearance, which was I think 4/18/67, he was in Washington and did not return to N.O. for the duration. For some reason it was decided that he was more touchy than the other key agents whose name does not ~~xxxxx~~ come to mind immediately, the one who "investigated" Shaw, who was allowed to remain in N.O. and assert privelege.

If all of this is put together, it canbe made to add up to CIA. Why this is risked in a Civil suit when Garrison alleged and failed to prove it in a criminal action, Ican't figure. With Shaw's character the key thing in the amount of damages, there is nothing relating to his past that is not admissable. I don't really think this suit is designed or intended for Shaw's benefit. I think he has been talked into believing that it is his chance for full vindication and recouping his financial losses. He must be out much, despite the help he got. I also think Sal would consider that Tom Bethell knew all there was to know about Shaw in Garrison'd files or knowledge, and this would be untrue. I could go to N.O. and without too much trouble, with help and some financing, make a strong case for Shaw's being Clay Bertrand even if it were not true. The other agent is Regis Kennedy. One of the unfollowed leads is the barkeep Trunbach who knew a Clay Bertrand and descibeda man like Shaw! That is where the investigation <u>ended</u>.The FBI did investigate Shaw.

(1)

1/23/93

Reading notes and records put aside two decades ago for possible use in the book tentatively titled Agent Oswald early this morning the attached memo got me to thinking of a number of things of that period, of my work then, and of friends I'd made of what critics think of as "the other side." The previous memo to which it refers is in the basement and I'm not now going to get it and the date, not on this addition to it. I'd not read and corrected the memo when I finished writing it.

Jesse Core was a conservative, a close friend of Clay Shaw's, at the time Oswald picketed the International Trade Mart its public-relations man and Shaw was still its manager. He was offended that Garrison was not in touch with him on the Shaw case because he had been important in Garrison's campaign and Jim knew he was a friend of Shaw's.

I remember that because I had not drunk heavily in years I drank him under the table, so to speak, figuratively, not literally. He was not in good shape when we parted but I kept working.

Gresham of the mafia connection was dressed rather loudly. He was considerable older than the woman with him, the alumna chairman of the coming Sugar Bowl game. Both were quite friendly and well loaded, as I recall. Attractive matron.

I recall now that I was then in New Orleans as Ray's investigator. That was the end of 1972. Bud Fensterwald was chief counsel, I was the investigator. I'd written about Raoul Esquivel in Frame-Up, the report that James Earl Ray had phoned him at the State Police Baton Rouge barracks (none in New Orleans (Metairie), where he lived), the information from Jerry Cohen, LA Times. He said that a strange character Charles Stein who'd ridden from LA to New Orleans and back with Ray spotted that number when Ray stopped to use a pay phone. I do not know how Stein got the number but I later got it from the FBI in CA 75-1996 and it got it from a pad Ray used. So I not only arranged for us to speak to Esquivel, I got us both invited to be guests at the Sugar Bowl and then Fensterwald chickened out on seeing Esquivel. (There were three by that name, the two older ones reputadly connected with Carlos Marcello, mafia boss of the area, and we were interested in the oldest, the grandfather.) Bud never told me why he changed his mind. Or why he asked me to handle it because he knew Guy Johnson, prominent lawyer supposedly also connected with the Office of Navy Intelligence..

Sal Panseca was the junior member of Shaw's defense, Sciambra the junior member of Garrison's staff. I wish it had been possible to spend more time with him. Panzeca.

I see that for all the drinking I was able to drive and did quite a bit.

Dean Andrews was a Warren Commission witness. He said that Oswald had been to see him with regard to his discharge and perhaps his wife's presence here or citizenship possibilities.

Andrews was a jive-talking lawyer who talked jive-talk in court. He blew some instrument and once had invited me to a French Quarter jam session, New Orleans jazz. I was not able to ccept the invitation, alas. My favorite popular music. The first time I met Anfrews, in the late spring of 1967, he told me that Garrison had been to see him the previous

November, threw a copy of the Dell edition of Whitewash on his desk and told Dean he should read it. Andrews told me that what Garrison read in it is what got him started, not the myth about his meeting on the plane with Senator Long. (Who told George Lardner no such thing happened. George Lardner in the WxPost and Ian McDonald in The Times of London both reported that Garrison started with Whitewash.)

One Saturday afternoon when I was with Dean his niece, Pat Young, came to see him. When he introduced me she kissed me and said I was the only one who treated her favorite uncle fairly. She told him she had gotten a job in Washington and would leave for it Monday I asked here where and she said hshe could not say. Some months later when I was one of those who addressed a conference for the brightest high school students on the east coast, The East Coast Conference on American Civilization, in Rockville, Md., we dined in the faculty lunch room. There was Pat Young, with a man named Weisberg to whom she introduced me and when I asked if they were scouting she gave me to understand they were. She may have been CIA. The man was a psychologist. We lunched together.

What I had not told Garrison and would not tell Panzeca proved that Shaw's alibi was perjury. He had testified that he had not left New Orleans because he was in charge of renting space in the new ITM building so it could not have been him the several Clinton, La witnesses said they had seen with Oswald. My own investigation developed two men who would have sworn they were under contract to rent the space and did, without Shaw. I have both on tape. With that Garrison could have nailed Shaw for perjury.

I think Cobb was the top man at the ITM, where Shaw was the manager.

Panzeca had copies of the nasty sex pictures Lane had had taken with two women, I'm told pins and needles stuff. I declined the offer to see them. Probably got them from the FBI.

FBI SA deBrueys, on page 2. Core phoned him as soon as Oswald started to picket the ITM building. I do not know if there was any special reason for it taking deBrueys so long to get there or why he had so little interest with LHO an FBI case. And with deBrueys the NO FBI Oswald case agent. But in the light of this several other items are of more interest.

Core must have told him, as he told me, that there were two young men picketing the ITM with Oswald. The one acknowledged to have by the FBI and Commission, Charles Hall Steele II, confirmed there was another with him, a man he did not know. Also, the NO Harbor police copy of the Oswald handbill it got when he picketed the carrier Wasp a short distance from the ITM, at the Dumaine St. wharf, had fingerprints not Oswald's. The FBI did nothing with that and refused to give me that identification. Garrison also did nothing about it. Moving deBrueys of all NO agents to Dallas seems a bit strange because in Dallas he sat in the office as an assistant to Gemberling, the case agent. Like Gemberling deB assembled the fat volumes of reports and forwarded them to FBIHQ. Why any agent without deB's knowledge of Oswald in New Orelans was not sent to Dallas so deB could be of use in NO is a mystery to me.

It also seems strange that Oswald knew the correct person on the WDSU-TV news staff to approach to have his picketing on TV and that he had a non-business number for him, Vern Rotman. In LHO's addressbook.

There is much that is odd except as suspicious in the FBI's NO investigation and it coincides in time with deB's being detalied to Dallas. A few of these matters:

Oswald did not pick his print job up from the Jones Printing Co and the FBI knew it but fudged this in its reports. When the Secret Service was getting close in its investigation, the FBI had SS HQ call the Secret Service off and they never learned what I did, from Jones and his assistant, Myra Silver. Taped. We can only guess why but that the FBI covered that up is a fact. The man both Jones and Silver identified was Kerry Thornley, who had known Oswald in the Marines. I have never used his name in public on this. It would be unfair. Even to a nasty like Thornley.

I do not know that deB's being detailed to FBIHQ right after my grand jury testinony had any connection with my testimony. Times coincide. He was out of NO for the duration of the Garrison fiasco.

The Oswald file/case was referred to Dallas from NO a month before the assassination. Or, it was deBureys' case all the time LHO was in NO.

Whatever the reason or reasons may have been, it is conspicuous that DeB was detailed to Dallas at the time of the assassination investigation for a job any FBI agent could have done, getting him out of NO for the key part of the JFK investigation there. And he was also out of NO and out of Garrison's reach for the period of the Shaw case. And he had been the Oswald case agent.

He should have known that Oswald was not alone in his picketing, too.

Which should have figured in any investigation. Other evidence relates this too. And didn't. Steele was in the TV footage so the FBI spoke to him alone. The other man wasn't in that footage so they forgot about him. He is in the FBI's records on the Doyle movie film and perhaps in its records on John Martin's (minneapolis). I have files on both.

That Shaw perjured himself in the Garrison case does not mean he was guilty in it.